

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Withdrawn) A moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent, comprising a porous silica having a hexagonal pore structure, an average pore size of from 0.8 to 20 nm, an average particle size of 50 nm to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , a specific surface area of from 400 to 2000  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , and a pore volume of from 0.1 to 3.0  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ .

2. (Withdrawn) The moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent according to claim 1, wherein the porous silica shows an X-ray diffraction pattern having one or more peaks at a diffraction angle corresponding to a  $d$  value of greater than 2.0 nm, and wherein in the X-ray diffraction pattern there exist no peaks at a diffraction angle corresponding to a  $d$  value smaller than 1.0 nm that have a relative intensity of greater than 200% of the most intensive peak among said peaks.

3. (Withdrawn) The moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the porous silica has an amount of chlorophyll adsorption of 5 mg or more per 100 mg of the porous silica according to a test for chlorophyll adsorption.

4. (Withdrawn) The moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the porous silica has an average particle size of primary particles of from 30 to 500 nm.

5. (Withdrawn) The moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent according to claim 1 or 2, further comprising a polyglycerol fatty acid ester obtained by esterification of a polyglycerol having an average degree of polymerization of 3 or more, and a fatty acid.

6. (Withdrawn) A material having adsorbability of moisture or a protein, comprising the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent as defined in claim 1 or 2.

7. (Withdrawn) The material according to claim 6, wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of food wrapping materials; filtration aid agents; sanitary articles; compositions containing a synthetic resin; moisture-controlled material; covering materials for wounds; insulation substrates; covering materials for semiconductor devices; cosmetics; inkjet recording media; and compositions containing synthetic fibers.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for imparting adsorbability of moisture- or a protein to a material by adding a moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent to a material selected from the group consisting of food wrapping materials, filtration aid agents, sanitary articles, covering materials for wounds, insulation substrates, coating materials for semiconductor devices, cosmetics, and compositions containing synthetic fibers, wherein

the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent comprises a porous silica having a hexagonal pore structure, an average pore size of from ~~0.8 to 20 nm~~ 0.8 to 5 nm, an average particle size of 50 nm to 100  $\mu\text{m}$ , a specific surface area of from 400 to 2000  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ , and a pore volume of from 0.1 to 3.0  $\text{cm}^3/\text{g}$ .

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the porous silica of the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent shows an X-ray diffraction pattern having one or more peaks at a diffraction angle corresponding to a  $d$  value of greater than 2.0 nm, and wherein in the X-ray diffraction pattern there exist no peaks at a diffraction angle corresponding to a  $d$  value smaller than 1.0 nm that have a relative intensity of greater than 200% of the most intensive peak among said peaks.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the porous silica of the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent has an amount of chlorophyll adsorption of 5 mg or more per 100 mg of the porous silica according to a test for chlorophyll adsorption.

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the porous silica of the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent has an average particle size of primary particles of from 30 to 500 nm.

12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent further comprises a polyglycerol fatty acid ester obtained by esterification of a polyglycerol having an average degree of polymerization of 3 or more, and a fatty acid.

13. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent is added in amount of 0.001 to 100 % by weight.

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 8, wherein the material is a sanitary article, and the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent is added in amount of 0.001 to 30 % by weight.